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Connecting December 11, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 11th day of December 2020,

The challenges of sports photography were carried to a new dimension by the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 – as our lead story from AP Images explains along with some of the best AP sports images of the year.

CORRECTION: In a story earlier this week on AP's headquarters at one time being at 50 Rockefeller Plaza, Connecting stated that corporate headquarters of Bank of America is now located at that address. A major Bank of America branch is there but corporate headquarters is in Charlotte, N.C.

Here's to a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

50 Rock and the Radio City lines

Doug Fisher ([Email](#)) - Reading Richard Drew's memory of the Radio City Music Hall lines snaking past 50 Rock brought back my own memories.

I was probably in that line.

As a child of New York in the 1960s, I made the obligatory annual trip to the show, either on a school field trip or with my mom.

I remember marveling at the building with the cool sculpture and, having seen the "Associated Press" line in the three daily papers my grandpa read, I knew surely those were important people rushing through those doors (though I have to admit the NBC signs across 50th were a bit cooler -- this was the TV age after all, and Huntley-Brinkley were regular fixtures at dinner).

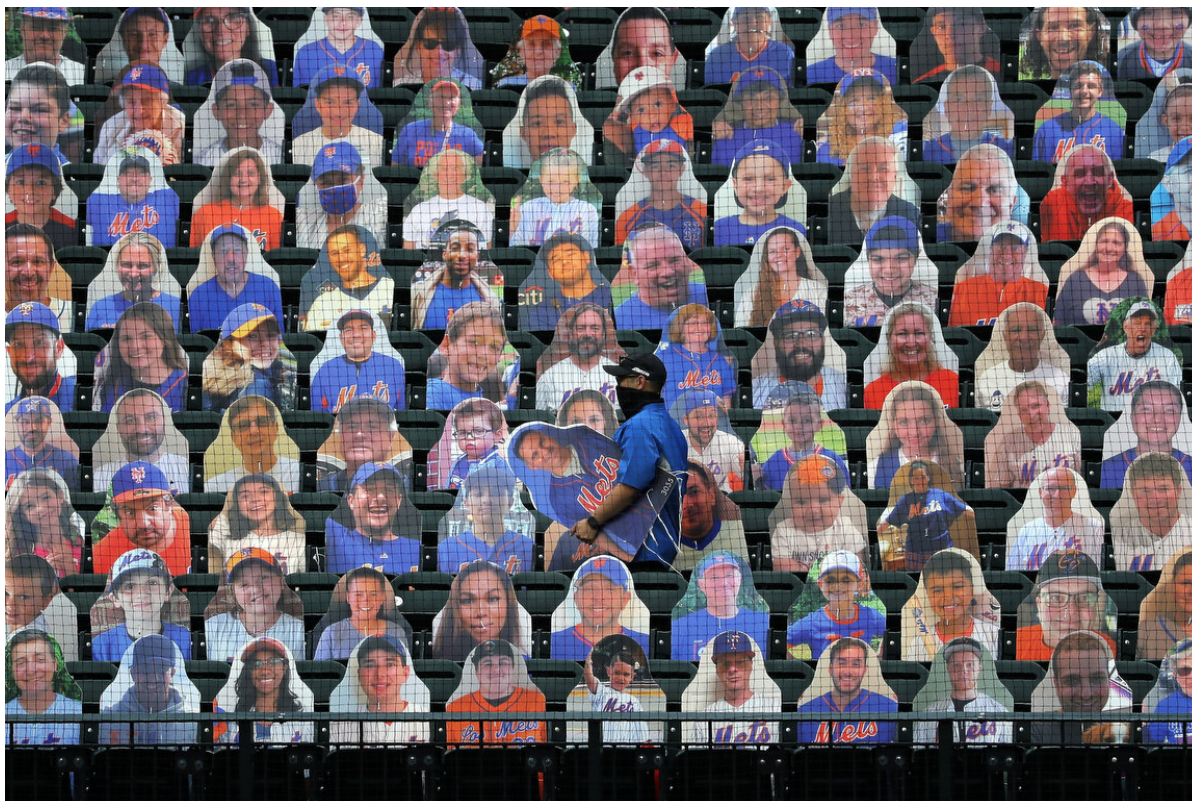
But what I most remember all those years was freezing my xxx off no matter how many layers I had on. The wind blowing up 50th from the Hudson was brutal. And the wait, usually an hour or more, just made it more so.

Never crossed my mind I'd go into journalism, let alone work for the AP for 18 years. I was dedicated to the hard sciences and started college as an astrophysics major.

But something must have stuck. Who knew ...

(My first visit to HQ as part of the AP was on a warm spring day, but I think I still expected to turn the corner and get a faceful of bitter wind. I wasn't disappointed in that expectation on some other trips.)

AP photographers capture a sports world disrupted in 2020



New York Mets employees place cutouts of fans in the seats before the Opening Day baseball game between the Mets and the Atlanta Braves at Citi Field, Friday, July 24, 2020, in New York. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

AP Images Blog

Patrick Mahomes reveling after a huge play. Rafael Nadal clutching another trophy. Sarah Fuller kicking off a new generation.

The faces of sports in 2020, new and old, were familiar. But the images that most defined this year, on and off the fields, diamonds, courts and courses all over the world, definitely were not.

And from every corner, the photographers of The Associated Press were there to capture them.

Two fans in Tokyo, sitting in front of the lit Olympic rings at a games gone dark because of the coronavirus. NBA players lined up in front of Black Lives Matter lettering. An empty Oracle Park in San Francisco, the sky lit up in orange from the raging California wildfires.

Read and view more [here](#).

COVID-19 update: Working from AP offices

AP CONNECTIONS

There remain many uncertainties as to when all AP staff will be back working in our offices and it is clear that there will not be a single date of reopening. Rather, each location will be assessed and reopened separately as the ability to work safely from AP offices differs by location.

Some offices have been determined to be safe to reopen and are fully operational with staff all working within safety guidelines, while larger offices have not reopened yet and won't for some time. If you are unsure whether your office has reopened for occasional or regular work, please check with your local manager.

For staff who may need to access an office occasionally, you can do so by submitting a request through your manager. For staff who do return even occasionally, it is imperative to follow the safety guidelines published on InsideAP.

Margie Mason and Robin McDowell win Sidney Award for palm oil series



Female workers carry heavy loads of fertilizer at a palm oil plantation in Sumatra, Indonesia. (AP Photo/Binsar Bakkara)

The Sidney Hillman Foundation announced that AP investigative reporters Margie Mason and Robin McDowell have won the December Sidney Award for "Rape, abuses

in palm oil fields linked to top beauty brands.” The Sidney is awarded monthly to an outstanding piece of investigative journalism that appeared in the prior month.

Mason and McDowell’s reporting exposed the horrific working conditions endured by millions of women who work on plantations in Southeast Asia, producing the palm oil that finds its way into countless consumer products from brands such as L’Oreal, Colgate-Palmolive, and Cargill. On vast plantations across Indonesia and Malaysia, the AP investigation found that women are burdened with some of the most dangerous duties in the production of palm oil, which is in almost three out of every four personal care products.

This is the second in a three-part series on abuses in the palm oil industry, an AP exclusive. Read the winning story [here](#).

Pandemic, loss unite 2 rural Missouri pastors around faith



Hannah Snow, a congregant and singer for the Community Baptist Church, gives toys to young parishioners during services, Sunday, Nov. 22, 2020, in Noel, Mo. (AP Photo/Jessie Wardarski)

AP Images Blog

Thirty miles of rural Missouri separate the two churches, and so much else. One is mostly white; the other hosts services in five languages for a flock that spans the

world.

Still, every Tuesday the pastors meet midway between their houses of worship, seeking each other's counsel, sharing their joys — and, more often, their burdens. Because in these pandemic-wracked days, they are sometimes overwhelmed by the crucible of ministering.

“Whether it be the death of a member, whether it be somebody upset, whether it be losing funding, whether it be just all sorts of different things, or maybe just our own depression, just dealing with being locked up at home,” said pastor Mike Leake at Calvary of Neosho, a Southern Baptist church.

One church was staggered by COVID-19 early on. The other has not had as many infections but has seen congregational life turned upside down.

Read more [here](#). Text from AP News story, Pandemic, loss unite 2 rural Missouri pastors around faith, by Luis Andres Henao, David Crary and Jessie Wardarski. Photos by Jessie Wardarski

Freeland and husband publish book about Morganville-Fèves pairing

Gloria Freeland ([Email](#)) – a Connecting colleague and professor emeritus in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications, and her husband **Art Vaughan** recently published their book, “An Opportunity to be Better,” about the sister-city relationship between Morganville, Kansas, and Fèves, France.

The couple began researching the story after students in Freeland's spring 2013 News and Feature Writing class at Kansas State University wrote a story about Morganville's aid to its French sister after World War II. Freeland and her students worked with K-State's Chapman Center for Rural Studies and Cathy Haney, the late Clay County Historical Society museum director, who preserved notebooks, photos, Morganville Tribune articles, and other documents related to the connection between the two villages.

Freeland and Vaughan also utilized the Carson family collection at K-State's Richard L.D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections during their research. Much of that collection was donated by Gould Colman, Velma Carson's son-in-law.

Carson, a Morganville native who received her K-State journalism and mass communications degree later in life, wrote the 4,500-word play, "Message to Fèves," that was performed in August 1948, in Morganville. She and other Morganville community members organized efforts to raise money and send clothing, seeds and other items to their French sister in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Their work brought worldwide attention to the rural Kansas community and its French sister.

Through his research, Vaughan found people in Fèves who remembered the story, and he and active members of the Fèves city council have been instrumental in re-connecting the two villages.

Freeland and Vaughan have traveled to France seven times to interview those who remember receiving the aid and to do additional research.

Visitors from Fèves traveled to Morganville in late December 2013, and 20 citizens from France visited in September 2015. Morganville Mayor Brent Rundell and his wife, Charlotte, accompanied Freeland and Vaughan to Fèves in September 2016, and former Morganville native Jay Mellies and Carson's niece, Margretta (Flinner) Fosse, and her son, Ben, were part of a group that visited in June 2019.

"It has taken a long time to finish this book, but it has definitely been a labor of love," Freeland said.

Vaughan agreed and added, "Our purpose all along has been to preserve the story for future generations."

Books are available through the Morganville-Fèves website: [www.morganvillefeves.org]. The Clay County Historical Society museum also has a limited number of books.

An Opportunity to be Better

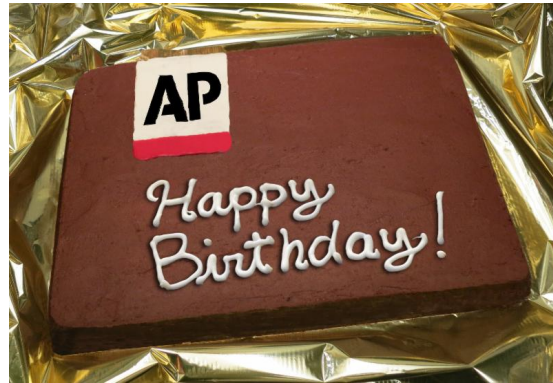


A small Kansas town adopted a French village mostly destroyed by World War II. It began as charity and grew into friendship.

Gloria B. Freeland and Arthur R. Vaughan

The couple is working on a French version of the book, which will be available in 2021. Friends in France are helping with the translation.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Daryl Beall - peacefriendship2004@yahoo.com

On Saturday to...

Carole Feldman - cfeldman@ap.org

Bill Foley - william-foley@sbcglobal.net

Dave Zelio - dzelio@ap.org

Stories of interest

Afghan Journalist Is Killed in Latest Attack on Media Figures (AP)



Mourners carrying the coffin of Malalai Maiwand, a journalist killed by gunmen in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, on Thursday. Credit...Parwiz/Reuters

By Zabihullah Ghazi and Thomas Gibbons-Neff

JALALABAD, Afghanistan — An Afghan journalist was killed on her way to work on Thursday, marking the third fatal attack on a well-known media personality in just over a month and sowing fear in a community that came of age reporting on a country at war for decades.

Gunmen shot the journalist, Malalai Maiwand, 26, a television and radio presenter with Enikas Radio and TV, as she was traveling in her car in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar Province in eastern Afghanistan. Her driver was also killed.

The Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan, which has been active in the eastern part of the country since 2015, claimed credit for the attack, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors ISIS announcements. The Taliban denied any involvement.

Ms. Maiwand is the latest casualty in the high-profile targeted killings that have racked Afghanistan in recent months, especially in the major cities including the capital, Kabul. The attacks have prompted a public outcry accusing the government of failing to protect its citizens.

Read more [here](#).

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Gannett will outsource 485 business-side jobs to India (Poynter)

By: Rick Edmonds

Gannett told its business side employees that 485 of their jobs will be outsourced to Hyderabad, India, early next year.

All of the jobs involve “business process,” the company said in a frequently asked questions document — things like paying bills, invoicing customers, preparing monthly summary reports and reconciling the books.

Those being laid off in the U.S. will be notified by Jan. 15 but can stay on until April. Many will be involved during that time in “transitioning” the work — that is, training their replacements.

The company said it does not have plans right now to do more outsourcing later in 2021 but did not close the door on that option.

Read more [here](#).

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Gov. Stitt complained to hospital leaders about interviews with media on COVID-19 crisis (The Frontier)

By BEN FELDER

Gov. Kevin Stitt has complained to multiple hospital leaders about their employees — doctors and nurses — giving interviews with media outlets on the challenging conditions they face as the state continues to struggle with the COVID-19 pandemic, according to multiple sources with health care facilities and the governor’s office.

Last month, a frustrated Stitt called Jim Gebhart, president of Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City, about recent news reports featuring doctors at the hospital, according to two senior staff members at Mercy who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the phone call.

On that call Stitt said if doctors didn't stop "fearmongering" about capacity issues it could force him to impose a ban on elective surgeries, which would be a financial hardship for many hospitals.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lindel Hutson.

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Follow the food... (Poynter)

By KRISTEN HARE

If you want to see what's working in local news, follow the food. Or the food writers and editors. I haven't meant to cover them as much as I have. I promise I'm not a wannabe food writer. But I'm realizing that food coverage has a few things that are critical for local news:

I've thought this again and again in the last few years, but after talking to three local food writers and editors about the future of food coverage, I figured it was time to put it all in one place. Here's why:

Newsrooms have to learn how to grow loyal audiences. This is not about scale. It is about giving people something they can't get anywhere else, and something they're willing to pay for through subscriptions, membership, donations or other kinds of support. L.A. Taco is three years into its membership drive and on the verge of sustainability, editor Javier Cabral told me. And at the Miami Herald and The (Charleston, South Carolina) Post and Courier, food coverage drives subscriptions.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

US Jews plan smaller Hanukkah celebrations amid virus (AP)



A man on a bicycle pauses on the sidewalk along Fifth Avenue in Manhattan near what has been described as "the world's largest Hanukkah menorah," Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020, in New York, on the first night of Hanukkah, the annual eight-day Jewish festival of lights. Due to coronavirus restrictions, a limited and socially-distanced crowd was allowed to attend. (AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

By ELANA SCHOR and LUIS ANDRES HENAO

Jewish Americans from a variety of branches of the faith are celebrating Hanukkah with smaller-than-usual gatherings this year, in hopes of keeping the year-end holiday safe but still joyful as coronavirus cases spike across the country.

Many Jewish Americans are already accustomed to more intimate celebrations of a holiday focused more on the home than on the synagogue, including Haredim or ultra-Orthodox communities. So the recent successful Supreme Court challenge to New York restrictions on in-person worship by some Orthodox groups won't mean much as far as their Hanukkah plans.

But celebrating Hanukkah during a pandemic still poses a challenge to some Jewish Americans, for whom the holiday has risen in prominence in part because its social elements and timing line up with non-Jewish holidays such as Christmas.

That has often provided a reason to host get-togethers, said Rabbi Avi Shafran, director of public affairs at Agudath Israel of America, a plaintiff in the court case.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - Dec. 11, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 11, the 346th day of 2020. There are 20 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 11, 1936, Britain's King Edward VIII abdicated the throne so he could marry American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson; his brother, Prince Albert, became King George VI.

On this date:

In 1816, Indiana became the 19th state.

In 1844, the first experimental use of an inhaled anesthetic in dentistry took place as Dr. Horace Wells of Hartford, Connecticut, under the influence of nitrous oxide, had a colleague extract one of his teeth.

In 1941, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States; the U.S. responded in kind.

In 1946, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established.

In 1964, singer-songwriter Sam Cooke was shot to death by a motel manager in Los Angeles; he was 33.

In 1972, Apollo 17's lunar module landed on the moon with astronauts Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt aboard; they became the last two men to date to step onto the lunar surface.

In 1997, more than 150 countries agreed at a global warming conference in Kyoto, Japan, to control the Earth's greenhouse gases.

In 1998, majority Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee pushed through three articles of impeachment against President Clinton, over Democratic objections.

In 2001, in the first criminal indictment stemming from 9/11, federal prosecutors charged Zacarias Moussaoui (zak-uh-REE'-uhs moo-SOW'-ee), a French citizen of Moroccan descent, with conspiring to murder thousands in the suicide hijackings. (Moussaoui pleaded guilty to conspiracy in 2005 and was sentenced to life in prison.)

In 2004, doctors in Austria said that Ukrainian presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko had been poisoned with dioxin, which caused the severe disfigurement and partial paralysis of his face.

In 2008, former Nasdaq chairman Bernie Madoff was arrested, accused of running a multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme that wiped out the life savings of thousands of people and wrecked charities. (Madoff is serving a 150-year federal prison sentence.) The remains of missing Florida toddler Caylee Anthony were found six months after she disappeared. (Her mother, Casey Anthony, was acquitted of murder in her daughter's death.)

In 2018, a man who had been flagged as a possible extremist sprayed gunfire near the famous Christmas market in the French city of Strasbourg, killing three people and wounding 13 others; the suspect died in a shootout with police two days later. (A fourth person wounded in the attack later died.) A Virginia jury called for a sentence of life in prison plus 419 years for the man who killed a woman when he rammed his car into counterprotesters at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. (James Alex Fields Jr. received that sentence in July, 2019.)

Ten years ago: The eldest son of disgraced financier Bernard Madoff, 46-year-old Mark Madoff, hanged himself in his Manhattan apartment on the second anniversary of his father's arrest. A U.N. conference in Cancun, Mexico, adopted a modest climate deal. Auburn quarterback Cam Newton won the Heisman Trophy.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama signed legislation keeping government agencies open into the following week, giving White House and congressional bargainers more time to complete sweeping deals on taxes and federal spending. Dow Chemical and DuPont announced they were merging to form a company valued at about \$130 billion. Willard Scott announced he was hanging it up after 35 years as part of NBC's "Today" show.

One year ago: Israel's parliament failed to meet a midnight deadline to form a coalition government, triggering an unprecedented third election in a 12-month period. Saudi Arabian oil company Aramco surpassed Apple as the world's most

valuable public company when its shares made their debut on the Saudi stock exchange; a 10% rally brought the company's value to \$1.88 trillion.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Jean-Louis Trintignant is 90. Actor Rita Moreno is 89. Pop singer David Gates (Bread) is 80. Actor Donna Mills is 80. Former Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., is 79. Former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is 77. Singer Brenda Lee is 76. Actor Lynda Day George is 76. Music producer Tony Brown is 74. Actor Teri Garr is 73. Movie director Susan Seidelman is 69. Actor Bess Armstrong is 67. Singer Jermaine Jackson is 66. Rock musician Mike Mesaros (The Smithereens) is 63. Rock musician Nikki Sixx (Motley Crue) is 62. Rock musician Darryl Jones (The Rolling Stones) is 59. Actor Ben Browder is 58. Singer-musician Justin Currie (Del Amitri) is 56. Rock musician David Schools (Hard Working Americans, Gov't Mule, Widespread Panic) is 56. Actor Gary Dourdan (DOOR'-dan) is 54. Actor-comedian Mo'Nique is 53. Actor Max Martini is 51. Rapper-actor Mos Def is 47. Actor Rider Strong is 41. Actor Xosha (ZOH'-shah) Roquemore is 36. Actor Karla Souza is 34. Actor Hailee Steinfeld is 24.

Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.



- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

paulstevens46@gmail.com

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